

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5753

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CARR IS (ESMAIL, SAMI)
SUBJ: W/W: ARREST: SAMI ESMail

REF.: TEL AVIV 5660, TEL AVIV 5664

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

1. CONOFF VISITED SAMI AT KFAR YONA PRISON MAY 1. BEFORE MEETING WITH SAMI, CONOFF SPENT HALF AN HOUR WITH COMMANDANT JOSEPH BARUN AND ASSISTANT COMMANDANT MOSHE POLLAK REVIEWING EVENTS WHICH LED TO SAMI'S SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO COMMANDANT BARUN, SAMI CONFERRED WITH HIS ATTORNEY, FELICIA LANGER, FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE AND A HALF HOURS ON APRIL 24. FOLLOWING THIS MEETING, PRISON GUARDS DISCOVERED IN THE ROOM WHERE THE TWO HAD MET, A LIST CONTAINING INFORMATION CONCERNING NUMBERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, SIZE AND NUMBERS OF CELLS, NUMBERS OF PRISONERS IN EACH CELL, EXERCISE HOURS, TV PRIVILEGES, ETC. A COPY OF THE LIST WAS NOT AVAILABLE AS IT HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN JERUSALEM. ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDANT, IT IS AN INFRACTION OF PRISON REGULATIONS FOR PRISONERS TO PROVIDE THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION. AS MRS. LANGER HAD ALSO VISITED SEVERAL ARAB CLIENTS DURING HER APRIL 24 VISIT, PRISON AUTHORITIES ORDERED SAMI
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DETAINED IN SOLITARY UNTIL AN INVESTIGATION COULD BE CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE WHICH PRISONER HAD PROVIDED MRS. LANGER THE "SECURITY" INFORMATION.

3. BEFORE ENTERING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, PRISONERS ARE SEARCHED TO PREVENT THEM FROM TAKING ANY ITEM, INCLUDING CIGARETTES, WITH THEM TO SOLITARY. SAMI RESISTED, ACCORDING TO THE COMMAND-

ANT, BEING SEARCHED, GRABBED THE SHIRT COLLARS OF THE OFFICER OF THE DAY AND PUSHED HIM AGAINST THE WALL. TWO GUARDS IMMEDIATELY CAME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF THE OD, WHO IS A VERY SHORT, SLIGHTLY BUILT OFFICER, AND "SLAPPED SAMI TWICE TO CALM HIM DOWN."

4. PRISON AUTHORITIES HAVE CHARGED SAMI WITH REVEALING "SECURITY" INFORMATION TO HIS ATTORNEY AND ATTACKING A PRISON OFFICER. THE SECOND INFRACTION IS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMANDANT TO BE BY FAR THE MORE SERIOUS. IN A DISCIPLINARY HEARING BEFORE THE ASSISTANT COMMANDANT, SAMI WAS GIVEN FOURTEEN DAYS SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. AS PRISON REGULATIONS DO NOT PERMIT PRISONERS TO SERVE MORE THAN SEVEN CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF SOLITARY, SAMI WAS RELEASED FROM SOLITARY ON MAY 1 AND IS TO SERVE HIS SECOND SEVEN DAYS MAY 7-14.

5. CONOFF REQUESTED TO VISIT SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELLS BUT WAS TOLD BY THE COMMANDANT THAT WHILE HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO PERMIT THE INSPECTION, AUTHORIZATION MUST FIRST BE OBTAINED FROM JERUSALEM. QUESTIONED AS TO THE TYPE OF FOOD PROVIDED PRISONERS IN SOLITARY, THE COMMANDANT STATED IT WAS EXACTLY THE SAME AS RECEIVED BY ALL OTHER PRISONERS IN KFAR YONA. TOILET FACILITIES AND SHOWER WERE AVAILABLE TO PRISONERS IN SOLITARY AND A MEDICAL ATTENDANT CHECKED ALL PRISONERS DAILY.

6. CONOFF CONVERSED ALONE WITH SAMI FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE-QUARTERS OF AN HOUR. SAMI APPEARED HAGGARED, UNSHAVEN BUT GEN-CONFIDENTIAL

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ERALLY WELL. HIS ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT IS AT SOME VARIANCE FROM THAT OF THE PRISON AUTHORITIES. ACCORDING TO SAMI, AFTER MRS. LANGER DEPARTED ON APRIL 24, THE PRISON LOUDSPEAKER CARRIED AN ORDER FOR HER TWO ARAB CLIENTS TO REPORT TO THE AUTHORITIES. APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTES LATER, SAMI WAS SIMILARLY ORDERED TO REPORT TO SOLITARY. AFTER BEING SEARCHED SAMI SAID HE ASKED THE GUARD "WHAT'S WRONG?" THE GUARD ANSWERED, "YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S WRONG" AND SLAPPED HIM ACROSS THE FACE. SAMI SAYS HE SCREAMED, "YOU CAN'T HIT ME." THE GUARD RESPONDED WITH A SECOND SLAP. AT THIS POINT SAMI SAYS HE SCREAMED AT THE GUARD AND A SECOND GUARD FELL UPON HIM AND HIT HIM APPROXIMATELY SIX TIMES ON THE HEAD WHILE THE FIRST GUARD CONTINUED TO HIT HIM. AT THIS POINT AN OFFICER WHO HAD HEARD SAMI'S SCREAMS ARRIVED AND PUT A STOP TO THE PUMMELING.

7. ACCORDING TO SAMI, HE WAS PLACED IN THE SAME (SEVEN AND A QUARTER BY FOUR AND A QUARTER FOOT) CELL WITH THE TWO ARAB CLIENTS OF MRS. LANGER. HE WAS CALLED BEFORE THE ASSISTANT COMMANDANT AND CHARGED WITH FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO A SEARCH AND ATTACKING A PRISON OFFICER. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF IMPROPERLY CONVEYING "SECURITY" INFORMATION TO HIS ATTORNEY. HE WAS INFORMED THAT HE WAS SENTENCED TO FOURTEEN DAYS SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

8. SAMI STATES THAT FOR THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF SOLITARY THE GUARDS REPEATEDLY IGNORED REQUESTS TO USE TOILET FACILITIES. AT THE END OF THE SECOND DAY MRS. LANGER'S TWO ARAB CLIENTS WERE RELEASED AND ALTHOUGH REPLACED WITH TWO CRIMINAL PRISONERS, CONDITIONS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF SAMI'S COMPLAINT TO THE COMMANDANT WHEN HE WAS CALLED BEFORE THAT OFFICER ON THE SECOND DAY OF SOLITARY. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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9. COMMENT: IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHERE THE TRUTH LIES BETWEEN THESE TWO VERSIONS. ACCORDING TO THE PRISON COMMANDANT, SAMI HAS BECOME THE "COMMISSAR" FOR THE POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE COMMANDANT WOULD LIKE TO ISOLATE HIM FROM
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THE OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS BUT REFRAINS FROM DOING SO DUE TO SAMI'S U.S. CITIZENSHIP. SAMI'S PARTING WORDS TO THE CONOFF WERE THAT HIS RECENT EXPERIENCE WILL PROVE WORTHWHILE IF IT ACHIEVES SOME PROPAGANDA VALUE. END CONFIDENTIAL.
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